according to the reports of the newspapers, preparation and delivery of fuel for schools had not started even in August, shortly before the beginning of the school year. [346, 871]

The success of training in schools is also conditioned by prompt and sufficient provision of students with textbooks, instruments, writing accessories, well equipped and completed physical, chemical and biological school laboratories and libraries. Several Soviet organizations, independent of each other, are engaged in providing students with textbooks in the BSSR. For this reason the textbooks, instruments and writing accessories have to travel a long way before they reach school shelves or bookstores.

"Books are left lying for a long time at the editor's and proof-reader's in the publishing house, they are held up even at the typesetter's. Almost-finished products lie for two and more months at the sewing and binding establishments. All this means that the established norm for the work on textbooks is not fullfilled from one month to another... A considerable number of textbooks is held up because of the shortage of maps and the unsatisfactory organization of the productive process of publication and typography. Books concerned with methodology are being published particularly slowly: Out of 46 such titles which were planned, only 5 have been printed." (Zviazda of May 21st, current year). [214]

Colossal sums are being expended for the printing of various propaganda material, as well as publications designed for foreign countries. This material is made up with special care and luxury. The appearance of the textbooks designed for Soviet schoolchildren is quite different.

"Textbooks are printed on poor paper, covers are smeared with printer's ink. The work of the sewing and binding divisions of the printing press is of a particularly low quality. Many books, even if they are most carefully treated, soon break and fall apart." (Zviazda, April 25th of this year). /72/

The most indispensable tools and products are absent from the school laboratories. The laboratories of provincial and country schools are especially poor. The teaching of physics, chemistry and natural sciences is reduced to a study without experiments and examples. The situation of the school libraries is no better: they are mostly oversupplied with Soviet political literature, while the classics are unavailable. School furniture consists of an assortment of local handicraft production, it is not standardized and not hygienic.

668
214 The People's Commissariat of Public Education of Belorussia /Narkompros/ became the headquarters of activity. Here follows a short schematic description of the most important measures taken up until 1930. The Narkompros took measures to have the instruction in all schools translated into the native language. This was difficult work since the schools did not have textbooks in the native language, the lack of elementary readers in the primary schools being a particularly difficult obstacle to overcome. However in a comparatively short period old and experienced teachers compiled some elementary readers modeled upon the literary styles of Belorussian writers, and a famous Belorussian linguist compiled a school grammar of the native language (1).

1. Ia. Lesik compiled a school textbook of the Belorussian language; the first normative grammar of Belorussian on a scientific basis, adapted simultaneously for use in schools had been issued in 1918 by the Belorussian philologist, V. Tarashkevich, long before Lesik.

The majority of the presses in Belorussia had been destroyed during the war and in any case, they were not suitable for mass publication of textbooks. During the course of a year some textbooks were printed in Germany and a few in Wilno under the direction of the well known writer D. Zhilunovich who was a member of the collegium of Narkampros. He subsequently reorganized the publishing business and the presses in Minsk. With contemporary techniques, the work which he accomplished would not seem to be very great, but in those times, against a background of general devastation, it was quite an accomplishment.

87/
668 Normal schools were opened in Minsk and a number of other cities. The one in Minsk played a particularly positive role. It was staffed with the best teachers, and during the twenties was named after Professor Ignatovskii. The education in these normal schools was directed toward the preparation of teachers who were also politically active nationalists. Their graduates subsequently devoted themselves, with great success, to the cultural rebirth of their nation. /5/ Many of them finished universities, and out of the former pupils of the Minsk normal school there developed a number of talented poets and writers. To fill the great lack of teachers of

661 Afterwards he put a lot of work into organizing the Institute of Belorussian Culture and later was President of the Belorussian Academy of Sciences. In Odessa on January 13, 1919, Nekrashevich was careless enough to greet the French general, Bartel, in the name of the Belorussians. This became known in Minsk and when the National-Democrats were being dispersed, S. Ia. Vol'fson in his work against them, Ideologiia i Metodologiia Natsdemovshchiny, /The Ideology and Methodology of the National-Democrats/ wrote, "S. Nekrashevich welcomed General Bartel in Odessa, 'On behalf of the National Center of Belorussia, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in the South of Russia, who bring us not only the hope but, I would say, the guarantee of a speedy liberation from the oppressions of the Bolsheviks who for more than fifteen months have been devastating our country' ... Nekrashevich begged General Bartel for armed assistance." (pages 69-70)

Belorussia became Soviet; Belorussians and Odessites, returned to Minsk, and the majority of them held responsible positions. The welcome Nekrashevich had extended to General Bartel was not forgotten, however, but was unearthed from the archives and figured on every occasion as a shining example of the political untrustworthiness not only of himself but of the whole group of "Odessites." The calculations of the Belorussians were not justified. His appointment to Gomel' did not save him from the G.P.U. He was arrested before he even started work there, condemned, and sentenced to work out his term of punishment on Medvezh'ja Gora near the construction of the White Sea Canal. Evidently Balitskii died there since we have no more information about him. His wife's death was also tragic. Being a doctor of medicine she was not arrested but later went insane.

Zhilunovich and the "Nats-Dems" /24/

214 668 The Belorussian State Publishing House played a prominent role in the national work. It was the only institution of this kind in Belorussia and issued all printed matter with the exception, of course, of newspapers and periodicals. This publishing house also regulated the priority of everything else published. It was headed by the outstanding Belorussian writer and politician of the older generation, Dimitrii 668 Zhilunovich (who used the pseudonym Tsishka Gartnyi).